GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:410
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
GANGOTRI GLACIER
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gangotri Glacier is receding at alarming pace;

(b) if so, the reasons for such significant changes in the shape and position of the glacier; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure that the role of human interference do not have any way impact on the glacier?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b) & (c) No, Sir. According to observations made by Geological Survey of India, the glacier is receding at a gradual pace and has since 1935 vacated an area of 0.57 sq.km. only. The earth has witnessed several phases of glacial and interglacial period. It is a natural phenomenon. Presently the earth is passing through an interglacial phase whereby the ice bodies throughout the world are receding and the recession of glacier is a natural phenomenon. The Government is aware of the environmental concerns and has supported conservation activities in the Gangotri region including afforestation, establishment of community toilets, removal of garbage and promotion of eco-tourism.